Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended)   A system for optimized routing of print jobs comprising:

means adapted for commencing a print job to a print port associated with a client machine

queuing means adapted for queuing print job data in accordance with a commenced print job;

means adapted for receiving a print optimization instruction from an associated user;

means adapted for selectively communicating the print job data to at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom;

terminal means adapted for receiving status data from at least oneeach of the a plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least oneeach associated printer device relative to dominant prior print job requests associated therewith;

means adapted for receiving a print optimization instruction from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing;

test means adapted for testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

the terminal means including means adapted for selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of to a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with the print optimization instruction and an output of the test means.

2. (Original)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 1 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

3. (Original)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 wherein the print job data is selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device which has the lowest commitment level.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Original)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 2 further comprising means adapted for storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 6̶1 wherein the means adapted for selectively redirecting the print job data the further comprises means adapted for displaying all available associated printer devices for the user to select a secondary associated printer device in which to route the print job data.

8. (Currently Amended)   The system for optimized routing print jobs of claim 6 wherein the means adapted for redirecting the print job data further comprises:
         means adapted to receive user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and
         terminating means adapted to terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

9. (Currently Amended)   The system for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 6̶1 wherein the means adapted for prompting an associated user is a graphical user interface.

10. (Currently Amended)   A method for optimized routing of print jobs comprising the steps of:
         commencing a print job to a print port associated with a client machine;
         queuing print job data in accordance with a commenced print job;

issuing a prompt to an associated user for a print optimization authority;

selectively communicating the print job data to the print port~~at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices~~ so as to generate a printout therefrom;

receiving status data from ~~at least one~~ each of ~~the~~ a plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of ~~the at least one~~ each associated printer device relative to ~~dominant~~ prior print job requests associated therewith;

receiving a print optimization instruction from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing;

testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of ~~to~~ a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with the print optimization instruction and an output of the test means.

11. (Original) The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 10 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

12. (Original) The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 wherein the print job data is selectively redirected to the secondary associated printer device which has the lowest commitment level.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 11 further comprising the step of storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended)   The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim ~~15~~ 13 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the step of displaying all available associated printer devices for the user to select a secondary associated printer device in which to route the print job data.

17. (Original) The method for optimized routing print jobs of claim 15 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the steps of:

receiving user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

18. (Original) The method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 15 wherein prompting an associated user is performed via a graphical user interface.

19. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs comprising:

means adapted for commencing a print job to a print port associated with a client machine;

queuing means adapted for queuing print job data in accordance with a commenced print job;

means adapted for issuing a prompt to an associated user for a print optimization authority;

means adapted for selectively communicating the print job data to ~~at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices~~the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom;

terminal means adapted for receiving status data from ~~at least one~~each of ~~the~~ a plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of ~~the at least one~~each associated printer device relative to ~~dominant~~prior print job requests associated therewith;

means adapted for receiving a print optimization instruction from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing;

test means adapted for testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

the terminal means including means adapted for selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of to a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with the print optimization instruction and an output of the test means.

20. (Original) The computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 19 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 20 further comprising means adapted for storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium for optimized routing print jobs of claim 23 19 wherein the means for redirecting the print job data further comprises:

means adapted to receive user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminating means adapted to terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.

25. (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs comprising the steps of:

commencing a print job to a print port associated with a client machine;

queuing print job data in accordance with a commenced print job;

issuing a prompt to an associated user for print optimization authority;

selectively communicating the print job data to ~~at least one of a plurality of associated printer devices~~the print port so as to generate a printout therefrom;

receiving status data from ~~at least one~~each of ~~the~~ a plurality of associated printer devices, which status data includes data representative of a resource commitment level of ~~the at least one~~each associated printer device relative to ~~dominant~~ prior print job requests associated therewith;

receiving a print optimization instruction from the associated user in response to an issued prompt so as to commence selection of an alternative associated print device for printing;

testing the status data against selected test criteria to determine whether at least one alternative associated printer device is desired for printing; and

selectively redirecting the print job data from a primary designated associated printer device by assigning the print port to a device port of ~~to~~ a secondary associated printer device of the plurality thereof in accordance with a print optimization instruction and an output of the test means.

26. (Original) The computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 25 wherein the test criteria includes data representative of a commitment level of the at least one alternate associated printer device.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Original) The computer-implemented method for optimized routing of print jobs of claim 26 further comprising the step of storing user selection data which pre-authorizes automatic routing of print job data to the secondary associated printer device .

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended)   The computer-implemented method for optimized routing print jobs of claim ~~29~~ 25 wherein the step of selectively redirecting the print job data further comprises the steps of:

receiving user input to terminate the routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device; and

terminate routing of the print job data to the secondary associated printer device in response to user input.